



# Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter American Hibiscus Society



## MBAC Meeting – Tuesday, November 13th

### Winter is Coming... Are Your Plants Ready?

The little cold snap we had a couple of weeks ago made it evident that it is time to prepare our plants for the winter. Do you have a plan? If you are like most of us, you have more plants this year than last, so adjustments will need to be made accordingly. Additionally, there are steps that can be taken to harden your plants to enhance winter survival.

Come join us on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for our last monthly meeting of 2012. Our technical session will be on *Winterizing Hibiscus*.

**Mini Show** – Each member can enter 2 blooms in each of the 3 categories of Single, Double, and Miniature. Have lots of blooms to share? Extra blooms can be displayed on the front table.

**Birthday Lottery** – Have a November or December Birthday? Come to the meeting to be included in the Birthday Lotteries.

### 2013 MBAC Calendar

The 2013 Mike Bernard Acadiana Chapter Calendar is compiled and being printed. At **\$12.00**, the calendars are great for holiday gift giving. Calendars will be available for purchase at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks to Lata Johnson for her assistance with the printing.

### 2013 Officer Elections

Officer elections will be held at the November 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting. **President ~ Vice-President ~ Secretary ~ Treasurer**, who would you like guiding our chapter in 2013? Are you interested in serving our chapter as an officer? Please email me at [ann@acadianahibiscus.com](mailto:ann@acadianahibiscus.com) if you are interested in holding an office or would like to nominate someone for an office. If nominating someone else, please check with them first to be sure they are interested and willing to take on the responsibilities of the office. Nominations will also be taken from the floor prior to the election.

### New Orleans Chapter Grafting Party

I would like to thank the New Orleans Chapter for the wonderful grafting party at Houmas House. It was once again a beautiful day at a great venue with wonderful people and, of course, a terrific array of wood to select.

### AHS Fall Membership Meeting

November 9<sup>th</sup> – November 11<sup>th</sup>

As you read this newsletter, a group of our chapter members will be heading to the AHS Fall Membership Meeting in Tampa, Florida. Thanks to Carolyn Cormier-Stoute, Mark & Theresa Gore, and Lata Johnson for giving their time and money to represent our chapter at this national meeting.

**Congratulations to Mark Gore** on his recent appointment to the **Seedling Evaluation Committee!**



## ***Merci Beaucoup!!***

*I would like to thank all of the members of our chapter for a wonderful year! Working together our chapter continues to learn, grow, and become more involved outside the chapter lines, both in show participation and on the national level.*

Please feel free to call me at 337-781-4992 or email me at [ann@acadianahibiscus.com](mailto:ann@acadianahibiscus.com) if you have any questions or need additional information about any of the above. *See you on the 13th! Ann*

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**Blooms and Things for November 2012.....the following is a quick hit outline of a presentation made last year at our November meeting. Pay close attention to the content and your plants should survive the winter months IF you give them some needed attention and preparation.....**

### **WINTERIZING**

**HAVING A GAMEPLAN** is essential.....I'm already moving my potted plants closer to the entrance to my garage just in case we have a change of weather.

THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD BE THE KEY TO WHATEVER GAME PLAN YOU SELECT.....

- 1..HOW MANY PLANTS DO YOU HAVE?
- 2..ARE YOUR PLANTS IN THE GROUND OR IN POTS?
- 3..ARE THEY TROPICALS OR GARDEN VARIETY?
- 4..WHAT WERE YOUR WINTERIZING RESULTS LAST YEAR AND DO YOU PLAN TO DO ANYTHING DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?

***Here's a personal opinion....."I BELIEVE WE LOSE MORE PLANTS TO MOISTURE IN SOUTH LOUISIANA THAN WE EVER LOSE TO TEMPERATURE!" .....***

HERE'S A GREAT LITTLE SAYING THAT ALL OF YOU SHOULD ADOPT FOR ALL TIMES BUT ESPECIALLY DURING OUR WINTER MONTHS.....

***“LOTS OF LEAVES, LOTS OF WATER, FEW LEAVES LITTLE WATER”***

HERE ARE A FEW ***“QUICK HITS”*** from some past Wintering articles.....

1..SHOULD THE WEATHER CHANGE QUICKLY, YOU MUST BE PREPARED WITH A PLAN OF ACTION

2..REMEMBER, EVEN IF IT IS NOT FREEZING, A COLD NORTH WIND LITERALLY SUCKS THE MOISTURE OUT OF YOUR PLANTS. DEFLECT THAT WIND!.....hugely important!!!!!!

3..YOUR PLANTS WILL “HARDEN OFF” AS THE NIGHT TIME TEMPERATURES GET COLDER.

4..REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER DURING COLDER MONTHS AND IF YOU DO USE ANY MAKE SURE IT HAS PLENTY OF ***POTASSIUM*** AND LESS NITROGEN AS THIS WILL HELP TO HARDEN PLANTS.

5..IF YOUR PLANTS WILL STAY OUTSIDE, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A GOOD FREEZE CLOTH.....LOWES, HOME DEPOT, CHASTANT BROTHERS, ETC.

6..IT IS BETTER TO KEEP PLANTS ON THE DRY SIDE DURING THE WINTER.....WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE SAYING?

REMEMBER ***“MORE LEAVES MORE WATER, FEW LEAVES LITTLE WATER”***

7..IF YOU HAVE LIMITED SPACE TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAVORITES AND THOSE HARDEST TO REPLACE FIRST!!

8..PLACING PLANTS UNDER A BIG TREE OR PORCH OFFERS PROTECTION AGAINST A SUDDEN FROST OR A FEW DEGREES OF PROTECTION FROM A SUDDEN FREEZE. THE KEY AGAIN IS KNOWING WHAT YOU WILL DO. EARLY NOVEMBER IS A GREAT MONTH TO DO YOUR PLANNING EVERY YEAR.

9..AS YOU PUT AWAY YOUR PLANTS MAKE SURE YOU ARE INSPECTING THEM AGAINST ANY DISEASE OR INSECTS. IF YOU PUT DISEASED PLANTS INTO A GREENHOUSE OR CROWD THEM ONTO A PORCH, DISEASE IS GUARANTEED TO SPREAD AND GIVE YOU THE WINTERTIME BLUES.

10..GROUNDED PLANTS WILL DO BEST IF THEY ARE WELL ESTABLISHED. PLANT THEM EARLY FOR BEST SURVIVAL RESULTS. SELECTING A LOCATION ON THE SOUTHSIDE OF A STRUCTURE DEFLECTS NORTH AND NORTHWEST WINDS AND GIVES YOUR PLANTS THE BEST CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.

***Here are SEVERAL MORE TIPS FOR IN GROUND PLANTS...***

..LAYERING TO INSULATE WILL WORK BEST. TRY TO KEEP WHATEVER YOU USE DRY BY COVERING THEM WITH PLASTIC NOT TOUCHING THE PLANT. IN WARM DAYS THAT PLASTIC NEEDS TO BE REMOVED.

..OVERSIZED TOMATO CAGES FILLED WITH LEAVES OR COVERED WITH FABRIC IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT METHOD OF INSULATING YOUR PLANTS.

..FREEZE CLOTH CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE BIGGER STORES AND IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ELIMINATE FROST DAMAGE ON YOUR PLANTS. YOU CAN ALSO LOOK AT A FEED AND SEED STORE LIKE CHASTANT BROTHER'S IN LAFAYETTE OR THIBODEAUX'S IN ABBEVILLE.

..IF YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA TRAY CANS, THEY WILL WORK WELL AS A COVER DURING FROST OR COLD SNAPS. TRY IT.

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If you have any individual questions about Wintering plants or any other related hibiscus questions feel free to email or phone me at 232-2446 for an opinion. By now most of you should know that I am not bashful..

See you at the Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup>) meeting.....Buddy